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Letter dated 23 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the demobilization of ethnic Albanian armed groups in the Presevo Valley area issued on 22 May 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the demobilization of ethnic Albanian armed groups in the Presevo Vailey area issued on 22 May 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the commitment by representatives of ethnic Albanian armed groups to full demobilization in southern Serbia (Presevo Valley area), signed yesterday by the Commander of the Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac, Shefket Musliu. This move is an encouraging step towards a non-violent settlement of the situation in the Presevo Valley. The European Union urges all individuals concerned to fully respect this commitment and to hand over their weapons to the Kosovo Force and return to civilian life.

The European Union encourages Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/Serbian authorities and ethnic Albanian representatives to continue their constructive talks held in recent days in order to consolidate the implementation of confidence-building measures, including the early establishment of a multi-ethnic police force. The European Union expects that outstanding issues concerning ethnic minorities in the Presevo Valley area, including the return of displaced persons and the integration of ethnic Albanians in political economic and social structures, will continue to be addressed in a serious manner after the return of Yugoslav forces to sector B.